

# THE SEMAPHORE

National Railway Historical Society  
ROCHESTER CHAPTER

---

VOL. XXVII

AUGUST 1986

NO. 12

Our August meeting will be held on Thursday the 21 in the main hall of the Forty & Eight Club of the American Legion at 933 University Ave. at 8:00 PM.

The program for the meeting will consist of a 90 minute video by Pentex on the Alaska Railroad. This is a current video on all operations of a fascinating railroad. Come to the meeting and see this worthwhile film!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Ron Amberger

At 7:00 PM, before the August 24th meeting, I would like to have a meeting with the Board of Directors and Trustees to discuss pending business.

## OATKA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM REPORT

by Rand Warner

### PROGRESS FOR JULY

#### DEPOT & GROUNDS:

Concrete aprons being repaired by John Hixson who is also putting in concrete steps up to display cars. Depot Agents flower garden in front of the Depot is looking good.

Weed killer was sprayed by Bill Reid and it is really doing the job along tracks and walkways.

Steve Huse and Rand Warner have relocated our flammable steel barn to construction equipment site.

Charlie Harshberger, Bob Cowan, John Hixson, Steve Huse, Curt Boyer, and Rand Warner are continuing general cleanup of buildings and grounds.

Paul Freidrich and John Hixson are engineering drainage and cribbing layouts for overall facility complex.

MOTIVE POWER & ROLLING STOCK:

A dream came true at 4:00 AM Wednesday, July 30, as Conrail delivered the former LVRR #211 RS-3m road switcher to the Oatka Depot Railroad Museum interchange track through switch #1. Engine welcoming committee included Dave Monte Verde, Bob Cowan, Paul Freidrich, Chuck and Jamie Riedmiller, Dave Shields, Bill Reid, Ted Miller, John Hixson, Dick Tickner, and Jeff Baxter. However, the group had dwindled considerably by 4:00 AM. The engine is now buttoned up and secured thanks to the committee. Our special thanks to Dave Monte Verde and the LV #211 Associates for this welcome acquisition of a period LVRR diesel in first class rebuilt operating condition.

We are blitzing our former Erie Caboose #254 refurbishment with work on interior floor, end platform steps, Erie logo, new glazing, new plumbing, interior carbinetry, rebuilt seats, seat cushions, and electrical and water system. Thanks to Dave Monte Verde, John Redden, Bob Cowan, Neil Bellenger, Gene Redden, and Jim Dean.

Interior of MU Power Car is really looking good as final painting progresses northward. Norm Shaddick, Curt Boyer, Redden, Dave Luca, and Matt Luca are working on the inside. Ted Miller is replacing outside roof walls.

Steve Huse is continuing the interior work at Pine Falls.

Norm Shaddick is keeping the water up on Ek #6 batteries and battery chargers have been repaired by Rand Warner.

TRACK & RIGHT OF WAY:

Another dream come true was on Saturday, July 19, as we witnessed heavy equipment from J. G. Turner excavate our stubborn hill, and grade and fill our R.O.W. to NYMT. We now have a beautiful hill, cut, roadway, fill, and side slopes. Many thanks to our benefactors. We can now proceed with final drainage ditches and culverts, final grading and ballasting, cribbing of banks and electric towers, and start throwing down ties and rails.

Thanks to Rose and Cal Bulman, Rand and Marge Warner, Wegmans Markets, Bob Cowan, Ted Miller, and Norm Shaddick who pitched in on meals and refreshments.

Thanks to Cal Bulman, Paul Freidrich, and Rand Warner for coordinating this event.

Thanks to Bob Cowan, Dave Monte Verde, John Redden, Dave Shields, Ron Amberger, Cal Bulman, John Hixson, Paul Freidrich, Dale Fellows, Earl Brickley, and Rand Warner who prepped the job site Friday night.

Thanks to all our help on the job Saturday, Pete Gores, Dave Monte Verde, Paul Freidrich, Cal Bulman, Steve Huse, Ted Miller, Norm Shaddick, Bob Hoffman, Dick Tickner, Dave Shields, Bob Cowan, John Hixson, Dale Fellows, Mike Byrne, Jeff Baxter, Neil Bellenger, Jerry Leidertheil, Bill Reid, Curt Boyer, Ted Strang, Rand Warner, and Chuck Riedmiller.

Siding Number 5 is being constructed northward from bumper at Route 251. Grading and ballasting is done, and ties and rail are going down thanks to Bill Reid, Bob Cowan, Steve Huse, Neil Bellenger, John Redden, Rand Warner, and John Hixson.

#### CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT & M. O. W.:

Steve Huse and Brian Huse are maintaining loaders, trucks, backhoe, and grader with help from Neil Bellenger and Rand Warner.

Parts were received for rebuilding the Fairmont Speeder by Jeff Baxter.

#### PLANS FOR JULY/AUGUST

##### DEPOT & GROUNDS:

- Complete repairs to concrete aprons.
- Complete assembly of concrete steps to cars.
- Complete removal of extraneous items from south waiting room.
- Survey Depot Building with transit to determine if it is out of plumb.
- Continue cleanup and cleanout of baggage room.
- Grade and slope parking lot to drain before picnic.

##### MOTIVE POWER & ROLLING STOCK:

- Complete refurbishment on Erie Caboose #254.
- Complete interior/exterior refurbishment on MU Power Car.
- Complete exterior refurbishment on LV #211 locomotive.
- Start exterior work on Pine Falls sleeper lounge.
- Start cab interior refurbishment on EK #6 diesel.
- Paint East Side B & O Caboose #C2631.
- Acquire deck timbers 4x4 for NYC Flat Car.
- Weld plate patches to sides of DL&W Baggage Car.

TRACK & RIGHT OF WAY:

Final grade and cleanup from excavation and fill.  
Install drainage culverts.  
Ditch edges.  
Install cribbing around around electric towers.  
Spread ballast north from Siding #5.  
Start laying ties and rail north from Siding #5.  
Begin construction of Switch #6.  
Drain and grade off low spots on new fill areas.  
Put in grass seed on side slopes of excavation for hill.  
Haul in ballast as permitted by weather.  
Haul in two trailer loads of ties (32 bundles).  
Haul in 1,000 feet of #80 rail from Fancher.

CONSTRUCTION & M.O.W. EQUIPMENT

Remove engine from Jackson tamper and take to Wellsville to be rebuilt.  
Make Kalamazoo and Fairmont track speeders operational for picnin.  
Grease all fittings on Euclid 3 yard loader, road grader, backhoe tractor, and trucks for expected heavy usage.  
Continue to explore opportunities for sale, lease, or rental of excess equipment.

THANKS TO:

Chuck Riedmiller for brand new cutting/welding acetylene torch outfit.  
John Hixson for more concrete blocks.  
Jeff Baxter for tools, artifacts, and supplies.  
Ted Miller for MU Power Car materials donation.  
Dave Monte Verde for donation of pair of caboose markers.  
Steve Huse for donation of plastic long-life pallets.  
Bill Reid, Steve Huse, and Rand Warner for fuel donations.  
Dave Shields, Bob Cowan, and John Hammond for LV #211 publicity.  
Dave Shields for coordinating installation of pop machine.

WANTED:

Assistance for Steve Huse on construction equipment maintenance.  
Someone to take over Baggage Car #633 to keep tools and materials properly stored and maintained.  
Oxygen and acetylene tanks to go with our new torch outfit.  
Seat cushions for BR&P Caboose.  
Someone to adapt cab interior of EK #6.  
Starter for GM 2-53 diesel on Jackson tamper.  
Culver pipe in either steel, cast iron, or concrete. Size needed is 12" x 24" x 10'.  
Cribbing timbers or landscape ties.

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR  
Chuck Riedmiller

The LV-211 is on the property! Conrail delivered it at 3:15 am July 30 to us at Industry the Lehigh Valley RS-3m211. The welcoming committee consisted of Rand Warner, Paul Fredrick, Dave Monte Verde, John Hixson, Bill Reed, Bob Cowen, and Jamie and Chuck Riedmiller.

Again, any member interested in helping to defray the cost with a possible donation, should see one of the officers. Remember, any donation is tax deductible.

On Saturday, August 9, a special thanks goes out to the following on getting the LV 211 cleaned up and painted. Jeff Baxter, Jeff Bochman, Bob Cowan, Dave Monte Verde, Bill Reid, and Jamie Riedmiller.

\*\*\*\*\*

STORES COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Dick Tickner

On the weekend of June 7-8, we set up the store and the model diorama, which depicts the Oatka Depot RR Museum in "N" scale, at the Rush Home Days in the village of Rush. On Saturday, the committee consisted of Dan Cosgrove, John Hixson, Mary Lou Tickner and Dick Tickner. On Sunday, it was Art Emmighausen, John Hixson, and Dick Tickner. We were able to meet many of our "neighbors" in the Town of Rush and explain to them about our museum.

On June 15, a committee consisting of Steve Huse, Dan Tomlinson, Bob Weinberg, and Wayne Wheatley attended the TTCS Toy Train Meet in Canandaigua.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 13 (Saturday) Falling Leaves Festival Excursion and Flea Market at the Salamanca Rail Museum, Salamanca, NY, 14779. Excursion to Cattaraugus from Salamanca via New York and Lake Erie RR. Flea Market will be held at the Salamanca Rail Museum 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

OATKA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

Volunteers have been as follows:

June 8 - George Bauerschmidt, Jr., George Bauerschmidt, Norm Shaddick, Mary and Tom Way.  
June 15 - Tom Bauman, John Hixson, Jerry Lederthiel, and John Redden.  
June 22 - Ed Maslyn, Bill Mitchell, David Shields, and Dan Tomlinson.  
June 29 - Frank Crawford, Ed Maslyn, and Don Shilling.  
July 6 - Cal Bulman, Rose Bulman, Dan Cosgrove, and Ted Miller.  
July 13 - John Hixson, Bob Irvin, and Ed Maslyn.

July 20 - Neil Bellenger, Jim Moore, Dick Tickner, and John Woodbury.

July 27 - Chip Harshbarger, Ed Maslyn, John Redden, Bill Shute, Mary and Tom Way.

Important! Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the Museum please call me at 244-4308. YOUR Museum is open every Sunday 1-5 PM. Museum will be open August, September, and October.

BOOKS AND OTHER MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE IN CHAPTER STORE:

Commuter Trains to Grand Central Terminal.....New Book.....	\$ 7.95
Ed Nowak's New York Central.....	22.00
B & O Heritage.....New Book.....	7.95
Colorado Memories Narrow Gauge.....	13.95
History of Railroad Accidents....New Book at Special Price..	7.00
Lackawanna Heritage.....New Book.....	7.95
Plattsburgh Traction.....New in Chapter Store.....	7.00
Putnam Division.....	8.95
One Day, One Conductor...Story of Lackawanna MU Cars.....	5.00
Steam Directory, 1986.....New Book.....	6.00
Diesel Locomotive Rosters: U.S., Canada, & Mexico..New Book	9.95
Historical Guide to North American Railroads.....	20.95
Train Watcher's Guide to North American Railroads.....	10.95
Keuka Lake Memories....Bill Gordon's reprint...New Book.....	14.95
Orange Limited.....Bill Gordon's reprint...New Book.....	5.95
Fairy Tale Railroad.....New in Chapter Store.....	17.95
Rails in North Woods.....New in Chapter Store.....	14.95
NE RR Vol. 4, The Erie Lackawanna.....	6.50
NE RR vol. 6, The Penn Central.....	10.00
Lehigh Valley Passenger Cars.....	9.95

The hard cover editions of the Subway book are now available. The retail price is \$24.00. Member's discount price is \$21.00. Pick up a copy at the Museum some Sunday or at the next Chapter Meeting. Reminder: There is a 20% discount on all book sales for the members of the Rochester Chapter. Buy your railroad books from your Chapter store.

FROM WXXI Program Guide, July 1986

Eight years ago, Gordon Black retired from his job as a chemist at Rochester Gas and Electric Corp. and became a full-time volunteer at WXXI. In addition to his hard work and unrelenting efforts, Gordon's personal chemistry had a strong and indelible impact on the staff and volunteers. With all that he gave, Gordon made us feel special, as though we were giving something for him. After fighting an illness that did not seem to daunt his spirit, Gordon died on Thursday, May 8, 1986. He would have been 73 years old this month. His upbeat attitude and wonderful sense of humor will be sorely missed. Staff and volunteers are contributing to the purchase of a tree to stand beside the Public Broadcasting Center on State Street. A living memorial to a Friend who gave so much.



### DEPOT NOTES

By: John Hixson

On Thursday, July 24, 35 four-to-five year olds had a tour of the Depot. They were from the City Summer Program sponsored by the Al Sigl Center. Also, there will be a tour conducted for a group from the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Progress is moving forward on the possibility of our Chapter sponsoring a BSA Explorer Post. There are over 11 such posts in the United States today. If all goes well, we will be the 12th!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### MEMBER REPORT:

Our deepest sympathy to the family of John Woodbury who died on August 4, 1986. John was a member of the Chapter for 49 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TRAIN TRIP NEWS

By: Dave Shields

#### UTICA TO BINGHAMTON NKP 765 STEAM TRAIN TRIP

The Central New York Chapter and the Utica-Mohawk Valley Chapters have cancelled the NKP 765 steam train trips to Binghamton and return on Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, 1986.

#### TRIP ON THE GENESEE AND WYOMING THIS FALL

The Western New York Railway Historical Society is finalizing plans (with the insurance) to run a trip on the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad on Saturday and Sunday October 4 and 5, 1986 running from Caledonia to Dansville and return. It will be using the WNYRHS coaches. The Rochester Chapter will be selling tickets for this trip and will be receiving a commission on each ticket we sell. Preliminary figures indicate that the ticket price will be \$29. Stay tuned for further details.

#### BUFFALO TO SALAMANCA ON CHESSIE WITH NKP 765

Western New York Railway Historical Society has cancelled the NKP 765 steam train trips to Buffalo and Salamanca and return.

### MAIN LINE NEWS

By: David Monte Verde

This month brought the return of LV 211 nee CR 9920 to Western New York. Having been purchased by LV 211 Associates for eventual donation to the Rochester Chapter NRHS, the unit was inspected and accepted for shipment at Conrail Altoona-Juniata shops on July 17 and was sent out on "PIMO" the following Thursday to Enola. On the 25th it was switched in to ENBU's consist for forwarding to Buffalo. Missing a "BUSY" connection on Saturday, July 26, Sunday's "BUSY" dropped it at Batavia, New York for pick up by Conrails local WBRO-15. Following a couple days movement around the area, an extra WBRO-15 crew delivered the unit to the Rochester Chapter siding in the wee hours of July 30th, as a few members slept in the Pullman to await its arrival.

The unit is fully operable having been re-engined in 1979 with an EMD prime mover and all other components rebuilt. It was operated for only 19 months and then stored servicable in Altoona. Plans are to repaint the unit Cornell red with the single band, the LV flag on the side and large diamond and LV on the nose. Replacement of the small cut in (the nose) number boards with steam ear PRR style number boards on the hoods is also planned.



# **ALL ABOARD FOR THE ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC!**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1986  
OATKA RAILROAD MUSEUM 1 PM TILL?**



**BRING A SALAD, MAIN DISH  
OR DESSERT TO PASS**

**BRING CHAIRS, CARD TABLES &  
ANYTHING TO SELL**

**\$4.00 ADULTS \$2.00 TEENS KIDS FREE !!**

**WE FURNISH MEAT, BEER, SODA, SERVICE**

## ATTRACTIONS

1 or 2 Operating Locos.  
2 Cabooses  
PINE FALLS Lounge Car  
Other Displays & Exhibits  
New Siding #5  
Games??

1 or 2 Operating Speeders  
2 Baggage Cars  
E-L MU Power Car  
New Chapter Library Areas  
Walk the R. O. W.  
Entertainment??

## INFORMATION

Information and Head count please call:

Rand & Marge Warner  
248-8889 Evenings

ORGANIZATION FOR

OATKA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM  
Comm. Chmn. Rand Warner  
Admin/Outreach John Hixson

SUPT. MOTIVE POWER  
AND ROLLING STOCK

David Monte Verde

Frmn. Pine Falls  
Paul Freiderich

Frmn. BR&P Caboose  
Curt Boyer

Frmn. NYC Flat Car  
Bill Reed

Frmn. EK #6 Loco  
Jeff Baxter

Frmn. MU Power Car  
Ted Miller

Frmn. DL&W Bagg  
John Redden

Frmn. Erie Stillwell  
Dave Monte Verde

Frmn. Erie Caboose  
Neil Bellenger

Frmn. RS-3m  
Jeff Baxter

SUPT. TRACK  
AND R.O.W.

Bill Reed

Frmn. Track  
Bill Reed

Frmn. ROW  
Paul Freiderich

Frmn. Switches  
Jeff Baxter

SUPT. CONSTRUCTION  
EQUIPMENT

Steve Huse

Frmn. Euchid  
Steve Huse

Frmn. Trojan  
Rand Warner

Frmn. Backhoe  
Steve Huse

Frmn. Boomtruck  
Rand Warner

Frmn. Road Grader  
Rand Warner

Frmn. Dump Truck  
Steve Huse

Frmn. Clamshell Crane  
Rand Warner

Frmn. Gardner Denver  
Steve Huse

SUPT. BUILDINGS  
& GROUNDS  
Curt Boyer

Frmn. Depot  
Curt Boyer

Frmn. Grounds  
John Hixson

Frmn. Barn  
Steve Huse

SUPT. MAINT. OF WAY  
EQUIPMENT  
Jeff Baxter

Frmn. Kalamazoo  
Peter Gores

Frmn. Fairmont  
Jeff Baxter

Frmn. Jackson  
John Redden

Frmn. Push Car  
Curt Boyer